SAINT PAUL, MN. Earlier today, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) took action on the joint filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO), and SERC Reliability Corporation (SERC) to dissolve the Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity (SPP RE) and expand the regional boundaries of MRO and SERC.

The FERC Order approves the termination of SPP RE’s Delegation Agreement with NERC and its oversight responsibilities, and provides a deadline of August 31, 2018, for the organization to wind down its operations. It also approves the revised NERC Delegation Agreements with MRO and SERC, to be effective on July 1, 2018, and authorizes NERC to proceed with its proposed transfer of registered entities in the SPP RE footprint to MRO and SERC. On page 6 of the Order (section IV, item 16), FERC finds that “[c]hanges to the MRO and SERC Delegation Agreements to reflect the transfers of registered entities, will ‘promote effective and efficient administration of bulk-power system reliability’ in accordance with FPA section 215(e)(4).”¹ In the Order, FERC indicates support of NERC’s approach in applying its Rules of Procedure in evaluating the dissolution of SPP RE and allocating registered entities to MRO and SERC. The transfer of registered entities will be effective on July 1, 2018.

MRO Interim President and CEO Sara Patrick said “We are pleased with FERC’s support of NERC’s technical assessment and resulting realignment of regional boundaries, and we appreciate FERC expediting its decision on the matter.” She added that having a decision in place allows MRO to continue to proceed with certain critical path items that are necessary for an organized transfer of registered entities. MRO Board Chair Silvia Parada Mitchell also expressed support of FERC’s decision, stating that the revised regional boundaries promote regional coordination and reliable operations of the bulk-power system.

On July 1, MRO’s new regional footprint will include more than 220 registered entities and all or part of the states of Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin, and the Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

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MRO HOT TOPICS!

MRO has already made considerable progress, working alongside NERC and SPP RE, on the transition of oversight responsibilities and data, and does not foresee any barriers to a seamless transfer of registered entities by the July 1, 2018 deadline. More information on the transition can be found on the SPP RE Registered Entity Transition page of MRO’s website.

Questions on the transition can be submitted to transition@midwestreliability.org.

1. See 16 U.S.C. § 824o(e)(4) (2012) (the ERO may enter into an agreement to delegate authority to a regional entity if, inter alia, “the agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk-power system reliability”).

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Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the reliability and security of the bulk power system in the north central region of North America, including parts of both the United States and Canada. MRO operates under authority from regulators in the United States through a delegation agreement with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and similar arrangements in Canada. The primary focus of MRO is ensuring compliance with reliability standards and performing assessments of the grid’s ability to meet the demands for electricity.